



19 August 2026

FOI Ref 23257

Request - You asked Staffordshire Police (SP) the following:

I therefore confirm that I am withdrawing Question 6 entirely.

Please proceed with Questions 1–5 only

Original request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request information regarding the searchable data categories and reporting capabilities of your force's crime recording and records management systems.

For clarity, I am not requesting any personal data, operationally sensitive information, software configuration details, access to any systems, or copies of operational records. I am seeking a high-level description of the categories of information that are recorded and whether they can be searched or used for statistical reporting.

Where possible, please indicate whether each category is:

Not recorded

Recorded but not searchable

Searchable

Searchable and reportable

1. Crime Recording Systems

Please identify the primary systems used by the force for recording or managing:

Crime records

Custody records

Intelligence records

Incident logs

Case management records (where separate)

Please provide the name of each system where possible.

2. Searchable Crime Data Categories

For each relevant system, please indicate whether authorised users can search or generate reports using the following categories (or equivalent fields).

Crime Information

Crime type

Home Office offence code

Crime status



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POLICE

Investigation status
Outcome or disposal
Date reported
Date occurred
Date closed
Geographic area (e.g. district, ward or policing area) Location or postcode Suspect Information

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Age
Age band
Sex
Nationality
Ethnicity
Country of birth
Immigration status (if recorded)
Occupation
Vulnerability markers
Repeat offender markers
Victim Information

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Age
Age band
Sex
Nationality
Ethnicity
Vulnerability markers
Repeat victim markers
Arrest and Criminal Justice Information

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Arrest made
Voluntary interview
Charged
Postal requisition
Summons
Referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) No Further Action (NFA) Other disposal outcomes 3.

3. Recording of Nationality

Please confirm:

Whether nationality is routinely recorded for suspects.
Whether nationality is routinely recorded for victims.
In which system(s) this information is stored.
Whether nationality is searchable.
Whether statistical reports can be generated using nationality as a filtering category.

If nationality is recorded but cannot be searched or reported upon, please explain why.



4. Recording of Immigration-Related Information

Please confirm whether any of the following are recorded where relevant:

Immigration status
Asylum seeker status
Refugee status
Visa status
Country of birth
Citizenship

For each category that is recorded, please indicate whether it is searchable and/or reportable.

5. Reporting Capability

Please confirm whether your systems are capable of generating statistical reports using one or more searchable categories without requiring manual review of individual records.

Where applicable, please indicate whether this can be achieved:

Through the standard records management system.
Through a separate reporting or business intelligence system.
Only through manual review.

SP received your request on 12/08/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds the requested information.

- I therefore confirm that I am withdrawing Question 6 entirely.
- Please proceed with Questions 1–5 only
- Original request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request information regarding the searchable data categories and reporting capabilities of your force's crime recording and records management systems.

For clarity, I am not requesting any personal data, operationally sensitive information, software configuration details, access to any systems, or copies of operational records. I am seeking a high-level description of the categories of information that are recorded and whether they can be searched or used for statistical reporting.

Where possible, please indicate whether each category is:
Not recorded



Recorded but not searchable
Searchable
Searchable and reportable

- 1. Crime Recording Systems

Please identify the primary systems used by the force for recording or managing: - **Disclosed**,

Crime records - **Niche**

Custody records - **Niche**

Intelligence records - **Niche**

Incident logs - **Storm**

Case management records (where separate) - **Niche**

Please provide the name of each system where possible.

- 2. Searchable Crime Data Categories

For each relevant system, please indicate whether authorised users can search or generate reports using the following categories (or equivalent fields).

Crime Information

Crime type

Home Office offence code

Crime status

Investigation status

Outcome or disposal

Date reported

Date occurred

Date closed

Geographic area (e.g. district, ward or policing area) Location or postcode Suspect Information

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Age

Age band

Sex

Nationality

Ethnicity

Country of birth

Immigration status (if recorded)

Occupation

Vulnerability markers

Repeat offender markers

Victim Information

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Age

Age band

Sex

Nationality

Ethnicity



Vulnerability markers
Repeat victim markers
Arrest and Criminal Justice Information

Please indicate whether searches or reports can be filtered using:

Arrest made

Voluntary interview

Charged

Postal requisition

Summons

Referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) No Further Action (NFA) Other disposal outcomes

- Withheld, please see the below exemptions.

- 3. Recording of Nationality

Please confirm:

Whether nationality is routinely recorded for suspects.

Whether nationality is routinely recorded for victims.

In which system(s) this information is stored.

Whether nationality is searchable.

Whether statistical reports can be generated using nationality as a filtering category.

If nationality is recorded but cannot be searched or reported upon, please explain why.

- Withheld, please see the below exemptions.

- 4. Recording of Immigration-Related Information

Please confirm whether any of the following are recorded where relevant:

Immigration status

Asylum seeker status

Refugee status

Visa status

Country of birth

Citizenship

For each category that is recorded, please indicate whether it is searchable and/or reportable.

- Withheld, please see the below exemptions.

- 5. Reporting Capability

Please confirm whether your systems are capable of generating statistical reports using one or more searchable categories without requiring manual review of individual records.

Where applicable, please indicate whether this can be achieved:

Through the standard records management system.

Through a separate reporting or business intelligence system.

Only through manual review.

- Withheld, please see the below exemptions.

All Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

The following exemptions have been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for parts of this particular request.

- Section 31 (1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31(1)(a)(b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

- Section 43(2) Commercial Interests

This is a prejudice based qualified exemption which means there is a requirement to provide evidence of harm and a public interest test needs to be considered.

Harm:

To provide precise details regarding specific police systems and what crime data is either searchable and/or reportable on these could undermine existing or future investigations, operations and police tactics. It would allow those with ill intent to cause disruption to policing and prejudice the prevention and detection of crime. Any information about the underlying architecture of systems that SP use could be used to assess the security of the product. Knowing this information and how they are searched/reported on would allow individuals to target SP systems and perhaps work with a level of validity that could lead to major disruption to the forces network and capabilities.

The information relating to the companies and systems used with regards to this technology, if released into the public domain, provides information into the marketplace which could be used by competitors. Such information is not publicly disseminated or available to competitors, and these companies go to great effort to prevent such disclosure whether in demonstrations or in public writings. There is commercially confidential information relating to these systems which are not permitted to be shared to the wider public.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the systems used with during routine policing and crime recording.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the intelligence required to disrupt police activity. This knowledge would allow those with ill intent to target their offending more effectively which would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and an increased danger to the public. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 43(2)

Disclosure of the requested information would allow the public to be aware of how public funds are spent and would share details of what companies provide to SP and how they work and thereby would provide transparency and accountability, showing that funds from the public purse are used appropriately and proportionally.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 43(2)

Through disclosure of the requested information, SP would find that its negotiating position would be greatly impaired through the release of details that would not only likely be prejudicial to SP but also to the companies involved. A competitor seeking to obtain such a roadmap undoubtedly hopes to find development and competitive shortcuts rather than investing in the toil of innovation as did the companies involved. This proprietary and confidential commercial information is exactly what the legislation is intended to exempt. Releasing this information would be expected to have a detrimental effect on their ability to be competitive in the future and would be exceedingly likely to deter further enterprises submitting offers for tender in the future. This then would impede SP obtaining the most competitive or appropriate services in the future and negatively impact upon the public purse.

Balance test

It is the responsibility of SP, when dealing with commercial businesses, to not only protect their commercial interest but also that of SP. Commercial interests must be protected so that the best possible value for money is obtained through open competition, both for businesses and SP. This would not be achieved if full details were to be made available to the market.

Although the use of public funds must be open and transparent, SP is accountable for the money that it spends and utilises and if to release the information means the force is unable to negotiate future tendering and have the ability to secure value for money due to business relationships having been impaired, then this would not be in the public interest.

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from SP, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Information Access Team within two months of the SP response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by a supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Information Access Team will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty working days.

The independent supervisor will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, considering the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the independent supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team